SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the paragraph in the specification appearing at Page 12, Line 28 as follows:

When it is determined that line card 114 should take over for line card 112, such as in the case of a power failure, switch 132 of line card 112 connects input node 145 to output node 146 of line card 112. Communications received at interface connector 118 are therefore provided to protect bus 129 through output node 146. In such a case, redundancy facilitator card 116 operates to provide data on protect bus 129 to interface connector 122, as described in greater detail below. Facilitator card 116 includes an input node 153 and an output node 152. In the illustrated embodiment, a switch 140 connects input node 153 to output node 152, thus providing data on protect bus 129 to interface connector 122. Interface connector 122 in turn provides the data over cable 121 to interface connector 120 for receipt by input node 149 of line card 114 over line 125. According to one embodiment of the invention, cable 121 is an ~~amphenol~~ AMPHENOL twenty-five, pair cable that connects interface connector 120 and 122; however, any suitable connector may be used. The data is in turn provided through node 148 to line card logic 134. In this manner, facilitator card allows communication of data to line card 114, but does so in a manner that allows line card 114 to have a substantially similar configuration to line card 112. In addition, line card 114 may also be used to directly receive data from a customer's premises rather than as a redundant card. In such an embodiment, cable 121 is detached from interface connector 120 and telecommunications lines are attached to interface connector 120. In addition, the detached end of cable 121 may be connected to interface connector 118, allowing line card 112 to serve as a redundant card.